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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CP NO.

COUNTRY

Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 15 July 1954

SUBJECT

Aluminum Production at Kovohuty Iron
in Svaty Kriz nad Hronom

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF
INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

634610

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1. Production of aluminum in the newly built Kovohuty Iron plant at Svaty Kriz nad Hronom (Q19/G54) was started in Autumn 1953¹ but the full production capacity of the plant will not be reached before the end of 1955. Construction of an aluminum plant in Czechoslovakia had been planned since 1949. At that time negotiations between Czechoslovakia and Hungary were started within the framework of the Eastern Bloc's mutual economic cooperation with the aim of securing deliveries of Hungarian bauxite for the planned production of aluminum in Czechoslovakia but these negotiations resulted in a standstill, chiefly because of the old-dated political animosity between the two countries. It was only in 1951 that Moscow decided definitely that Hungarian bauxite would be processed in Czechoslovakia and that the construction of the Kovohuty Iron plant was started.² The reason for this decision was the Czechoslovak ability to supply electrical energy needed for the plant from the newly built hydroelectric power plants in the Vah valley and the relative proximity of Hungarian bauxite deposits from the plant site.

2. [redacted] the production of the Kovohuty Iron plant would not only be capable of meeting all Czechoslovak aluminum requirements but that the whole Soviet orbit would become independent of Western aluminum supplies after the full-scale production of the plant had been reached.

1. [redacted] Comment. The Czechoslovak newspaper Pravda dated 1 September 1953 announced that on the occasion of a celebration of the anniversary of the Slovak insurrection on 29 August 1953 the operation of the Kovohuty Iron plant had been inaugurated.

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